

Application No. P09-250304, filed September 16, 1997, and a certified copy of the Japanese Priority document was submitted in grandparent application Serial No. 09/725,283, filed November 29, 2000.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), chapter 201.15, explains that a reference can be overcome by presenting foreign papers providing evidence of an earlier date of invention. As indicated above, the priority date for the present application is earlier than the earliest effective date of any of the prior art references applied by the Examiner. Although a certified copy of the priority document was submitted in the grandparent application as noted above, a verified English translation of the priority document has not yet been submitted. Therefore, in order to overcome each of the prior art references applied by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, a verified English translation of the priority document has been prepared and submitted herewith, and it is submitted that the priority document fully supports the subject matter recited in the rejected claims. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the prior art references applied in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, in view of the withdrawal of the prior art references and, therefore, the withdrawal of the prior art rejections in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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